

ADVANCE

THE FOURSQUARE INTERNATIONAL



HARVEST
VISION 1970



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



EDITORIAL

Yes, Vision Statistics Are Real People!

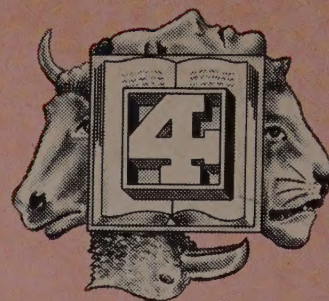
By Janice Pedersen
Editor

Little did I know when I made my gutless six-cylinder Dodge Dart climb the steep mountain grade to the Global Leadership Conference that, when it finally coasted down again (with a deep, mechanical sigh), I would be completely revising the original format of the July/August *Advance* issue to share the exceptional impact of that conference upon the whole direction of the Foursquare Church.

But, in that revision I was compelled to leave in one story—that of Ruben Soto's salvation on pages 10-12, a young man who at a mere 13 years of age already commanded the art of robbing stores to trade green bills for "angel dust." Now, when you read the challenging "Harvest Vision 1990" of the Global Leadership Conference, picture Ruben Soto among the envisioned number of people to be reached for Christ by 1990. Bring the vision statistics down to a tangible, one young man—Ruben Soto—who was brought into Christ's kingdom because someone had a vision for his life.

When you read the vision presented by our United States and Canada Foursquare leaders of increasing the number of new converts tenfold by 1990, look at the back cover picture of Lylla Yazzie, American Indian at Castle Butte, Arizona. As you see her holding her two Indian grandchildren, realize her concern that they follow in Christ's footsteps. Read about the "Harvest Vision 1990," then think of Lylla. Who will reach these two little Indians if we don't take the vision seriously?

Consider "Harvest Vision 1990" on the next few pages, then look between the lines and see the Rubens and Lyllas around you who, if someone had not brought the gospel to them, would still be alone, without Christ, today. Then, go out and share Jesus. Only then will you fully and completely understand the spirit of the Global Leadership Conference.



This We Believe

...that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God (II. Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:19-21).
 ...that God is triune—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (I John 5:7; John 1:1,2,14).
 ...that man fell through disobedience (Romans 5:12,19).
 ...that Christ died to redeem us (Titus 2:14; Gal. 3:13).
 ...that salvation is through grace (Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 3:23,24).
 ...that repentance and acceptance are vital (I John 1:9; John 6:37b).
 ...that new birth must be experienced to become a child of God (John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17).
 ...in a daily Christian life (I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 6:1).
 ...in water baptism through immersion (Rom. 6:4; Acts 2:41).
 ...in the institution of the Lord's supper (I Cor. 11:23b-28).
 ...in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5,8; 2:4).
 ...in the Spirit filled life (Rom. 12:1,2; Gal. 5:16,25).
 ...in the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:6-8; Gal. 5:22,23; John 15:8).
 ...that we must be moderate in all things (Phil. 4:5).
 ...in Divine healing (James 5:14-16; Matt. 8:17).
 ...that the Second Coming of Christ is both imminent and personal (I Thess. 4:16,17).
 ...in Church relationship and in civil government (Heb. 10:24,25; Rom. 13:1,3).
 ...in the final judgment (Matt. 13:41-43).
 ...in heaven and hell (I Cor. 2:9; John 14:2; Rev. 20:10,15).
 ...in tithes and offerings to support the Lord's work (Malachi 3:10; II Cor. 9:7).
 ...that the Church is responsible to evangelize all nations (Mark 16:15; John 4:35-37).

STATEMENT OF FAITH
International Church of the
Foursquare Gospel

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HARVEST VISION 1990

THE FOURSQUARE INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

December 31, 1990—the "vision" dateline.

"Write the vision...make it clear...read it...run with it!" (Hab. 2:2).

Suddenly, the conference site was buzzing with delegates from around the globe. Africa! Asia! Europe! North America! South America! Excitement and expectancy were in the air!

Something great was about to happen! Rise was being given to a vision; God was writing it on the hearts and minds of Foursquare leadership from churches around the world. Such an awareness of vision had not occurred in this magnitude before.

Brightly colored national flags—reds, oranges, purples—waited motionless for their role in the opening ceremony. 201 representatives, delegates, missionaries and observers from some 36 countries on five continents had come with anticipation. International Board members, U.S. District Supervisors and Missions International office staff were to add their part to this unprecedented event.

It was Monday, April 26, the day immediately following the 1982 International Foursquare Convention. But the Foursquare International Global

Leadership Conference, high in the San Bernardino pine-tree shrouded mountain range of California, U.S.A., would be different. It would mark the beginning of a new era in Foursquare's mission.

What prompted the Foursquare international family heads and international leaders to call a meeting of such magnitude? Why now?

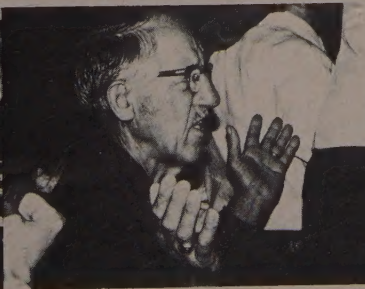
One by one, the motionless flags came to life. With excitement and great pride, each country's Head Representative marched in bearing his national colors.

One could not deny the excitement and anticipation present. But why would many of our national church leaders and missionaries sacrifice to raise the needed travel expenses to make sure they

were an integral part of this unusual and significant Foursquare family event—the first of its kind? What was the envisioned outcome? Where would it lead us?



*By Rev. Phil D. Starr,
Conference Chairman,
Coordinator of Communications,
Missions International*



God Called This Meeting Into Being!

The vision for this conference had been verbalized by some men's lips and written by other's pens from time to time before. But the true fount from which it sprang was made clear by Dr. Leland B. Edwards, Director of Missions International, during the opening keynote address. "GOD called this meeting into being!" he announced.

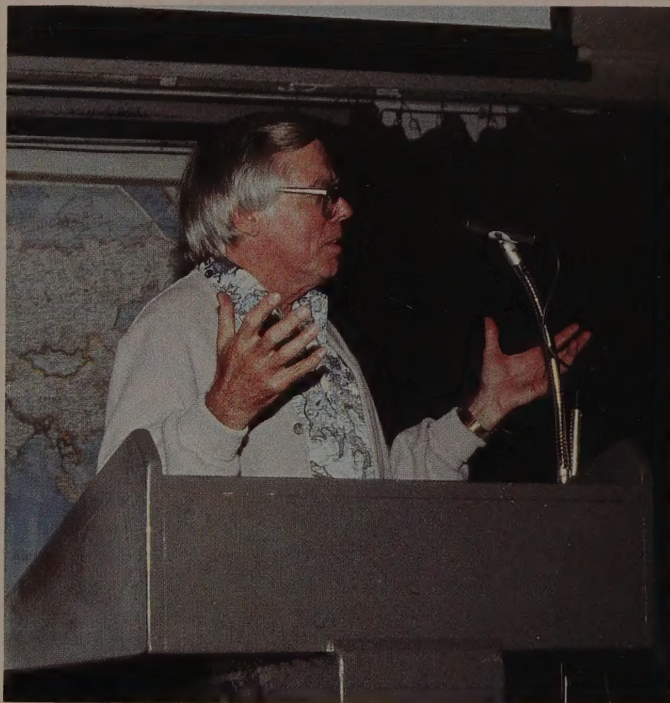
But Why This Conference?

The purpose of this great gathering was to 1) come together from the four corners of the earth for oneness of worship, fellowship and communion together, 2) learn of our history and heritage, together evaluating the work of the Foursquare Church internationally, and 3) unitedly establish a worldwide, cooperative, all-inclusive strategy of evangelism, church growth and expansion for the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Motive Behind the Purpose: Jesus For the World

Our founder, Aimee Semple McPherson, inscribed the Great Commission

on the hearts and minds of her followers, tying it directly to the Acts 1:8 Pentecostal experience. She penned a slogan, "Around the World With the Foursquare Gospel!" This



Dr. Leland Edwards, Director of Missions International

same strong conviction was engraved on the cornerstone of Angelus Temple, our headquarters church: "Dedicated to...worldwide evangelism." We have been *destined* to be a people of vision—global vision!

Dr. Edwards stated that our strategy in global missions has been guided by three very significant scriptural princi-

ples: 1) evangelism, 2) discipleship, and 3) the establishment of an indigenous church in each country. Each church is destined through the unction of God's Word and God's

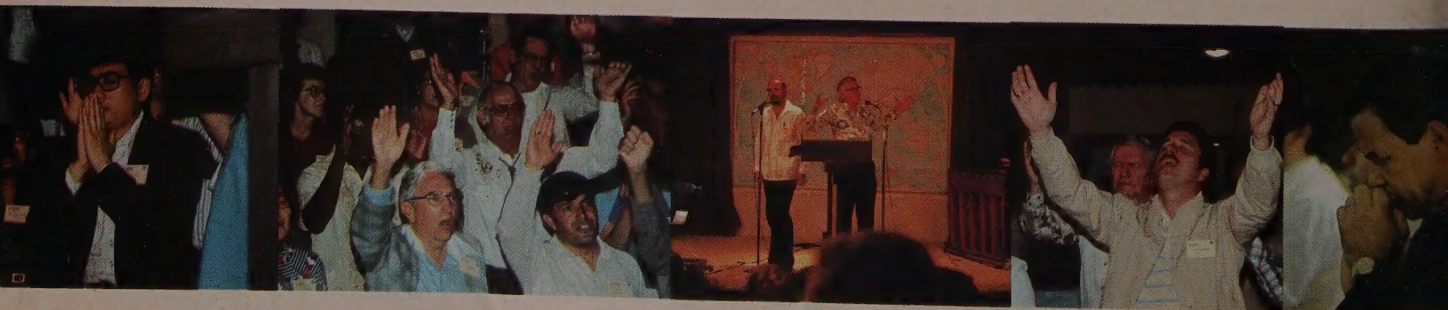
Spirit of becoming missions-conscious for an ever-broadening global vision, just as its mother church. Now, that vision has become its own vision.

Why Now?

Many of our overseas mission-established churches are maturing, adult churches, ready to wrestle side by side with us, the parent church, in our Great Commission commitment. Brotherly effort and commitment is strategically needed to "step up" the harvest task.

Much Work Requires Much Worship

Three hours were set aside Tuesday morning to wait before God in worship, praise and adoration. Where there is much work, much worship is required! Through the Word, Jack Hamilton, President of LIFE Bible College in Los Angeles, led us into the Lord's presence. With hearts made open, God began to cleanse, unify, compact, perfect and bring healing to those present. This prepared the conference constituency for the next step.



What Is the State of the Foursquare Church Worldwide?

To plan for the future, we must learn from the past. Dr. Rolf K. McPherson, President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, set forth an overview of 100 years. Starting with Aimee Semple McPherson's praying mother, he moved forward recalling vital moments in the birth of the Foursquare Church. What a rare experience this was for many of the conferees, a time of learning their roots.

That evening, each country's Head Representative defined the state of the Foursquare Church in their land. With a vital, living church existing in the midst of much national and political turmoil in many parts of the world, these reports provided great insight as to the need of God's great grace for His Church at this time:



Sri Lanka

Leslie Keegel reported, "The infant Foursquare work in Sri Lanka is less than 3 years old." Beginning amidst a population of Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim people, now combined church and meeting places total 16. Recently, of 39, 36 converted Buddhists and Hindus were filled with the Holy Spirit, and a 14-day-old dying child of Buddhist parents, after prayer, was healed. Weekly, 200 executives at the Central Bank in Colombo meet for Rev. Keegel's Bible study.



Brazil

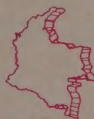
Last year, a goal had been set for

40,000 people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, said Jaime Paliarin. Apparently, at one church in one night alone, 411 people were baptized in the Holy Spirit. By the end of 1981, 42,000 in their 1,300+ churches were baptized, exceeding the goal!



Argentina

Roberto Prieto reported that the Argentina church is on the advance, growing from 93 churches and 7,000 members in 1976 to nearly double that size in 1981 with 172 and 10,800 respectively. During the next five years they hope to establish churches in the five major cities of Argentina.



Colombia

According to Rafael Perez, the church in Colombia was sown through blood and tears, and those early Christians should be considered true heroes. In the last decade, the Colombian church has grown to 76,899 members and 773 churches and meeting places. Presently, 80% of the state capitals have Foursquare churches established there.



Hong Kong & Macao

Ron Williams reported that Foursquare Hong Kong Christians are prayerfully targeting the one billion Chinese globally.



Chile

The work in Chile has escalated more than 100% with 132 churches in 1981 as compared to 67 in 1976. Eduardo Zarate says there is a strong motivation among the pastors to become involved in missionary vision both within their own country and beyond its borders.



Nigeria

The church in Africa has learned to grow during civil war, expansionism of communism, in times of poverty and in times of abundance. During the last year the West Africa churches gave largely for evangelism and missions, opening the works of Benin and Ghana, and now in 1982, Liberia.



India

John Gnanaolivu reported of this new country to Foursquare. Only a very small percentage of its 700 million population has any knowledge of the gospel. Therefore, great work is needed.

The delegates summoned together for this global gathering, once new converts, are now mature brothers in Christ. We as brothers will now partner together in the task of worldwide evangelism as the need of it is rocketing out of proportion!



Vision 1990 In the Making!

The time had come for which we had gathered together—that of defining, establishing and structuring a global vision of church planting and world evangelism by December 31, 1990. This would be our part, together with the larger universal body of Christian believers, to see all people groups on earth have a viable body of believers by the year 2000 A.D., should the Lord tarry.

First, Rev. Ralph Mahoney, Director of World Missionary Assistance Plan (World MAP), presented a powerful, scriptural approach to establish vision, goals and strategy. This three-hour presentation provided great preparation for what would happen during the afternoon hours.

As representatives of each country gathered according to five regions, the Spirit of God began to move. Deep, earnest prayer was made, brother by brother. Cultural and nationality differences had melted long before because all were members of the same family as Christians—and Foursquare members.

Fingers began to point out where Foursquare works were established on wall maps. Each pointed out where the work was heading and growing.

1990 goals and vision were discussed including number of churches, meeting places, members and adherents, converts, etc. Hidden People groups and new countries to reach by 1990 were indicated. Much excitement was exuding from the five separate regional meetings simultaneously as they observed how the great, present momentum of growth, caused by the Holy Spirit, could thrust the growth of the church into even greater dimensions.

To formalize the 1990 vision, each region established the terms of cooperative involvement and planning needed to fulfill their vision. Under God, they would seek to pool all resources of manpower, equipment, finances and gifts of ministry for the task. Relationships were already being established that would keep drawing them together in the future.

Vision Projections Jolt All Expectations!

The moment had come! As the climax of the conference drew near, one by one, regional meeting

coordinators stood to report what had transpired during their meetings. All expectations previously anticipated were being zoomed past as spirit-born visions of reaching unreached multitudes of people were presented.

South America Region

"We hope to extend ourselves throughout 11 countries!" announced Eduardo Zarate, South America Regional Committee Coordinator. The South America Region presently consists of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Referring to their vision of extending into 11 countries, Brother Zarate said that small works have already begun along the borders of Uruguay, Paraguay and Peru. This tactic has also begun in Colombia, Ecuador and Chile, countries which surround Peru. Our South American brethren are also targeting countries in the Dutch West Indies Islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. The Brazilian church seeks to target other Portuguese-speaking countries such as Portugal and Angola, Azores and Mozambique of Africa.

	Church/ Mtnng.Pl.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	1,644	160,739	168,067	2,432	6	0
1981	4,039	251,862	398,391	4,256	6	2
1990	14,464	2,852,800	1,256,800	11,880	55	6

Asia/South Pacific Region

"Asia is the world's largest harvest field, and it is white unto harvest, but the laborers are few," said Rev. Ernesto B. Lagasca, Coordinator of the Asia and South Pacific Regional Committee. The countries included in this region are Australia, Hong Kong, Macao, India, Japan, Korea, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Soon to be added is Singapore. The Philippines, our largest work in Asia, has many potential missionary candidates willing to go. Notice the projected goals below.

	Church/ Mtnng.Pl.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	1,436	5,272	38,251	494	23	3
1981	2,177	15,268	66,547	1,036	57	9
1990	9,566	347,000	356,894	4,372	65	21



United States and Canada Region

Dr. Roy H. Hicks, Sr., Chairman for the U.S./Canada Region reported that for many years, the U.S. and Canada church has given unselfishly of its wealth and personnel in order to obey the Great Commission. However, recently the home field experienced some very dry years.

"But all of a sudden," Dr. Hicks exclaimed, "we began to hear something—it was a beautiful sound—the sound of revival! Strong faith was ignited as the Spirit of God told the leaders to prepare for great growth. We started having problems—*parking problems!*"

The U.S. Church during the 1982 Convention presented an aggressive plan of advance called, "*Advancing Through the '80s!*" The U.S. Church, with renewed vision, rose to embrace the challenge of seeing 18 or more new countries opened, making a total of 55 or beyond, by 1990, and to see an 85% increase in missionary personnel and giving to top \$10 million a year by 1990.

	Church/ Mtg. Pl.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	786	35,397	121,332	4,097	0	29
1981	1,021	52,461	154,645	4,502	0	37
1990	1,956	115,300	282,000	8,200	100	55

European Region

The missionaries who gathered at this conference believe that the Lord has given them a vision for the entire continent of Europe. God is already fulfilling that vision by sending new workers from this year's International Convention.

Rev. John Verbarendse, European Region Coordinator, reported that the Foursquare work began in Europe many years ago, first in Greece, then in Spain, England, Holland, and now, West Germany. The committee, believing that Europe is on the verge of a spiritual breakthrough, projected a goal of 105 organized churches by 1990 with 374 meeting places. With approximately 650 converts now, they have projected that by 1990 there will be 16,000 believers, which includes the reaching of 5-10 Hidden People groups. New countries envisioned by this committee are Finland,

Norway, France, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Russia, Portugal, Hungary, Albania, and then into North Africa to Morocco.

Mid-America Region

"There are those of us who are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ," says Mid-America Region Committee Coordinator, Rev. Gerardo Goyenaga. Many face trying circumstances and difficult times of national crisis in some of these countries. The countries in which Foursquare operates are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico and Haiti.

According to Rev. Goyenaga, the Global Leadership Conference provided them with a new enthusiasm for serving the Lord. "Our vision has been refreshed," he shared. As Brother Goyenaga presented the following goals, he emphasized that there must be a growth far beyond what they themselves can do. But, this is the reason why we have been commissioned. For us it is impossible, but it is possible with the power of God.

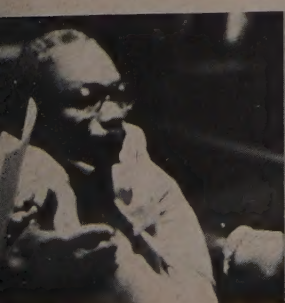
	Church/ Mtg. Pl.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	633	10,421	40,006	682	2	0
1981	797	12,669	50,062	1,106	5	3
1990	4,579	63,500	74,000	6,021	17	6

African Region

Rev. Mitchell Belobaba, Advisor to Europe and Africa, reported on developments in Africa. In 1929, the Foursquare Gospel went first to South Africa and to Zaire, and in 1954, to the most populated nation on the continent, Nigeria. The Nigerian church has sent its own missionaries to Benin, Ghana and Liberia.

By 1985, our African brethren have set their targets on reaching Cameroons, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast of West Africa. Last year, the Nigerian church received invitations to come to Zaire, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola. Targeted for 1989 are Tanganiki and Ethiopia. Rev. Belobaba submitted the following projections for 1990:

	Church/ Mtg. Pl.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	143	1,778	12,788	63	0	2
1981	215	4,998	29,600	248	1	4
1990	920	15,194	170,000	500	16	9



Presenting the Foursquare

have



The Impossible Makes Me Know God Is In It!

"If I read my Bible right, as we move into the end times and the antichrist systems begin to arise and totalitarian forms of government begin to take over, many millions are going to turn to Jesus Christ. God allows this as hot winds to blow and ripen end-time harvest."

That was the statement of Dr. Donald McGregor, Coordinator for the denomination's Church Growth and Evangelism program as he prepared to present a total picture of Vision—1990. He also referred to Foursquare works where one actually became a thousand and two became 10,000.

"Someone said to me," he continued, "Are these statistics submitted by each of these regional committees possible? It scares me to death!" I answered that it makes me know God is in it because God is the God of the impossible."

The Churches We Gave Birth To Speak

The following statistics, compiled from all regional reports, comprise Foursquare International's global vision, emanating from our leadership in some 36 countries. It is the church we have birthed abroad speaking its vision to us, the mother church, and its worldwide constituency.

A Powerful Moment!

What a powerful moment this is in the history of the Foursquare Church globally! The words of Jesus Christ, "I will build My Church!" are unveiled anew. Our delegates coming from 36 countries and 5 continents took a Spirit-prompted "look unto the harvest field, white unto harvest," and as a worldwide movement decided to obediently seize that vision—to write it and run with it! Note Habakkuk 2:2-3 (KJV):

"And the Lord...said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Make It Plain!

Don McGregor told conferees that in order for the harvest vision to be realized, anticipation of a great impetus of prayer needed to be grasped, discipling and multiplication of leadership will need to spring up, and expanded dimensions of Spirit-ignited evangelism needs to break forth. Great resources of finances are going to begin to be released through prayer and believing faith as Foursquare works globally begin to see mammon's stranglehold broken on the lives of their constituency. God will adequately meet the need of believers and their vision of helping others.

- Reaching 37 new countries and 160 Hidden People groups,
- Teaming with 31,072 enlisted pastors and workers,



Countries To Be Reached

New countries to be reached by 1990 are Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, North Korea, Singapore, Guam, Portugal, France, Italy, Russia, Norway, Finland, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Peru and Cuba.

	Church/ Mtnng.PI.	Converts (Annual)	Members	Work- ers	Hidden People	Countries Reached
1976	4,073	216,966	299,786	6,642	31	0
1981	7,653	337,394	499,073	13,371	69	8
1990	31,896	3,409,074	2,145,394	31,072	160	37



1990 from the Global Leadership Conference

Passing 2,145,394 members and
ments involved in its worldwide

adding 3,409,074 new converts in
to the Lord Jesus and involving
in disciple-training,
establishing a total of 31,896
ches and meeting places as centers
worship, church life and outreach.

A Prayer Covenant Is Born As Our Countdown Closes

As the closing hours of the conference began to squeeze down toward the final climaxing moment of this strategic time, it seems that at least three times a cry or call for regular and continuous, earnest prayer had been lifted. The fourth one being when the

closing night speaker, Jack Hayford, had said that just as Jewish prayers of intercession paved the way for Esther's acceptance before the king, thus securing their salvation, so our partnering in prayer with each other will keep the attention of this conference before us...the fresh vision...and will open the way for the release of God's Kingdom power to His people, allowing this task before us to be fulfilled.

THE COVENANT: *Until 1990, or the Lord's coming, there will never be a week go by but that each of us will set aside one hour to partner together before God in prayer for one another and the task set before us.*

Every Foursquare friend and member around the world is urged to join in that covenant, setting aside an hour either Wednesday or Friday, to linkup with each other in prayer. We invite your commitment.



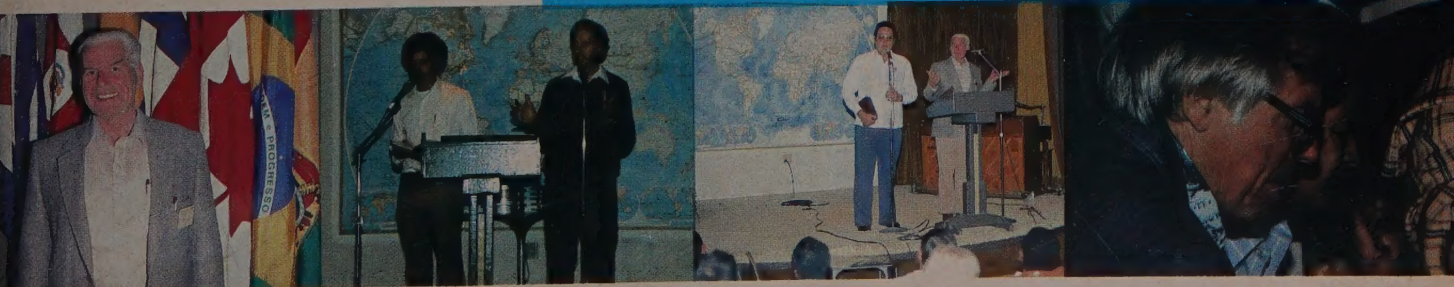
- Countries reaching out
- Countries being reached

sons, Central Africa Republic, Zaire, Uganda,
s, Nepal, Bangladesh, Manchuria, Taiwan,
ia, Yugoslavia, Belice, Grand Cayman, Haiti,

I covenant to pray one hour weekly with our Foursquare brethren globally for the national churches, the brethren and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Signed _____ Date _____

Show your support by clipping this signed covenant and sending it to Missions International, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

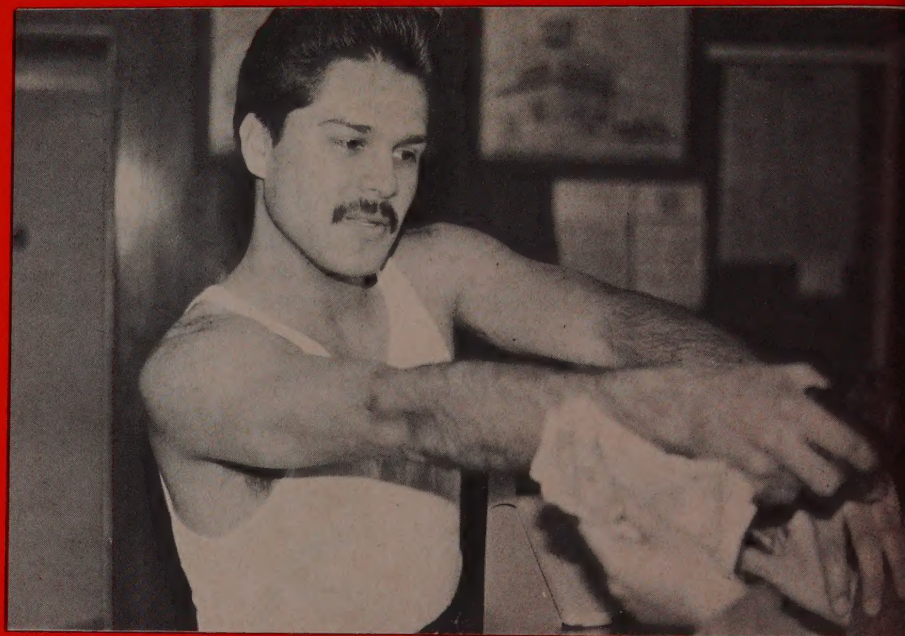


By Janice Pedersen,
Editor

Face to Face With a Six- Shooter

The loaded pistol felt cold against his skin. As he ran his fingers across the black, metal barrel, he realized how tightly he had been clutching it, as if it offered some meager source of protection. How foolish, he thought, as he crouched lower in the driver's seat of the stolen car. How ridiculous—he knew the cops had seen him. He might as well just get out of the car and give himself up. That's what he really wanted anyway. Life was placing more demands on him than his few 13 years could handle.

The boy strained to hear footsteps. He knew why he was in trouble—it was too much "angel dust" (PCP). His mind wasn't right any longer. He thought of his friends, still back in the house getting high on the stuff. One of his friends had taught him how to rob stores ("You go inside, pull the gun out, and tell them to give you the money"), and now he carried a gun with ease, robbing every other liquor store to get money to buy angel dust. In fact, he had been on his way to rob a liquor store, only this time, the money would be used to bail one of his friends out of jail. But, wouldn't



One of his friends had taught him how to rob stores ("You go inside, pull the gun out, and tell them to give you the money"), and now he carried a gun with ease.

you know it, the cops had seen the car he had stolen just hours before.

The crunching of gravel reached his ears. Quickly, the boy tried to start the car, but the cops ran in front. Crouching back down in the seat, with gun in hand, he turned to the right window. A policeman's gun pointed, it seemed, right at his throat. He turned to the left, meeting eye to eye with the barrel of another pistol. With a police helicopter purring overhead and blinding red strobe lights flashing, they led the 13-year-old away.

It was three years later. Ruben Soto had been in and out of juvenile halls, boys homes, jails. This particular night was almost a carbon copy of that incident three years ago when he had first been arrested. After all, here he was again looking for a car to steal, to rob a liquor store, to steal money, to get a friend out of jail. But he was older and wiser now—he knew exactly what he wanted and he knew how to get it.

"Ringo" (that's what the gang called him) and a friend rounded a corner

near Angelus Temple Foursquare Church in Los Angeles. There, in that familiar parking lot, a man was just now getting into his car. The stage was set.

"That's the car," Ruben told his friend. "Let's get it." Grabbing the man by the tie, he threw him on the pavement and demanded the keys. When the man resisted, Ruben gave him a firm blow.

"I got the key and got in the car," Ruben recounted later, "but I saw how that man was looking at me. I felt different. I had hurt other people and it just didn't seem the same."

Then, Ruben's friend made him feel worse by demanding why Ruben had hit the man for no reason. "There were music tapes in the car," said Ruben, "so I told him to shut up and put the tapes on. And they were CHRISTIAN tapes. 'Look at what you did now,' I told myself, but I had stolen his car already, so we took off."

The Christian tapes were just a hint of what was to come. Months later, God would begin to move in Ruben's life, but not until some pretty high stakes would be played.

Ruben and some friends were "kicking back" on this particular day, getting high on angel dust and watching T.V. Someone dropped over to the house and offered to give Ruben a ride home. Ruben admits that the



"John La Madrid started reading from the Bible and praying for me, but all I could think of was, 'Boy, wait until I get out and get that person.'"

guy was acting strangely, but he accepted. As Ruben and three of his friends climbed the stairs to the street, they noticed that the guy who had offered the ride would not come out of the house.

"When I got to the top, I just felt something cold," said Ruben. "I mean I felt WEIRD—I didn't see any car and that guy would still not come out of the house.

"Suddenly, I turned to the left and there was a guy pointing a gun at me. I yelled, 'NO!' but he started shooting. We were standing there—face to face—and he started SHOOTING! The bullets forced me backwards and I fell down the stairs."

Smells of medicine and flowers reeked throughout the hospital room. Ruben peered at the five bullet holes in his chest, but his mind was elsewhere. He knew he had seen his assailant's face before, he thought angrily, but he just couldn't think of who it was. Soon the doctor came in.

"Man," he said, "You're so lucky. When your heart was beating DOWN, one bullet went through. That is the only reason why you are still alive."

Minutes later, a man walked in the room introducing himself as John La Madrid from Angelus Temple. Ruben explained later: "My mom who attends the Angelus Temple Hispanic

Congregation had asked him to come. He started reading from the Bible and praying for me, but all I could think of was, 'Boy, wait until I get out and get that person.' When John walked out the door, he said, 'Ruben, you aren't ready. If I don't see you dead, I'll see you in jail.' And tears started streaming down my face—I was going through too much."

From the hospital, it was straight to juvenile hall as John La Madrid had predicted. Soon, Ruben was sentenced again, but this time everything seemed to backfire. From behind bars, he called one friend to bail him out. No luck. He tried another. More excuses. Even his girlfriend claimed that she had no money. This was definitely not the way it was supposed to be.

"Here I am in a gang," said Ruben. "I had helped all my friends out. Now no one wants to get me out, and I don't have a thing. All of a sudden, everything was different.

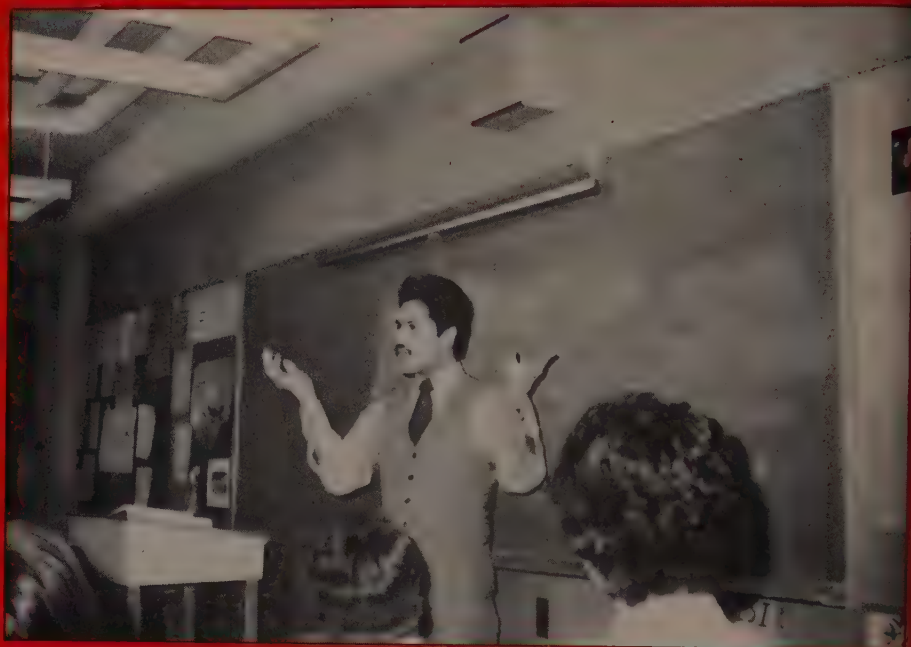
"So when I finally got out of jail, I decided to go to church. There at Angelus Temple, I was just kicking

back, waiting for them to preach. When they finished, I felt so bad. I knew my friends couldn't give me anything. I felt like I had something heavy on me, you know.

"And I was just sitting in my seat, crying to God, when someone came and invited me outside. There he told me about how God wants to give us a chance, and I told him that I wanted something different. I told him that I didn't feel right and I was tired of the life I had been living. We went inside and the whole church started praying for me, and God forgave me of my sins."

But the story doesn't end here. Ruben, since his salvation, had seen a familiar face crossing the street many times—a face which reminded him of a sin long forgiven by God, but not yet forgiven by man. The face was that of Rev. Ralph Hammon, Professor at LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles, the man Ruben had assaulted approximately three years earlier in the public parking lot by Angelus Temple.

Up until March of this year, Ruben had avoided Ralph, fearful of finding out who he was and what position he held in church. "But one day I was fasting and praying," said Ruben, "and he came into my mind. I wondered what kind of Christian love I had by avoiding him; we Christians should love one another and be FAMILY. I



felt so badly that I went to my pastor, Rev. Raymundo Diaz, and he said I should ask Brother Hammon's forgiveness."

As Ruben climbed the stairs to Ralph Hammon's office that day, it seemed as if his feet shook with every step. How was he to know that Ralph wouldn't turn right around and call the cops? What right had he to even speak to this man after what he had done?

They sat down—face to face.

"I'm a Christian now," Ruben started tentatively. "I'm with the Hispanic congregation. God has forgiven me of all my sins, and I want your forgiveness for something that happened awhile back."

Ralph gave him a puzzled look. "I don't know where I come in," he said.

This is it, thought Ruben. "I am the person who pulled a gun on you in the parking lot three years ago."

The silence made Ruben more nervous than admitting his crime. He could just hear the words: "Well, young man, look at this, and this...." But instead, Ralph stood up, walked over, and gave Ruben a hug he will never forget.

What seemed like hundreds of eyes peered at him from the audience as he stood with Ralph Hammon on the Angelus Temple

"I visited a high school recently and gave my testimony. God was blessing and when I made an altar call, people came, crying, and said it was something that they had never experienced."

platform the next Sunday. Ralph shared first.

"The day after my car was taken, one of my students asked, 'But can you forgive him?' 'Certainly I can,' I answered, and so I did. I recall one night, right at the Los Feliz offramp on the Interstate 5 Freeway in Los Angeles, that I prayed, 'God, I want you to move sovereignly, and save that young man, and LET ME SEE IT.' Three days ago, I had the wonderful privilege of throwing my arms around him and loving him.

"And one more thing. The student who asked if I could forgive was John La Madrid. That is more of God moving in a sovereign way. John La Madrid put feet to my prayer."

Soon, Ruben heard himself speaking. "John La Madrid came to see me in jail just as he promised that day in the hospital. Before he left I asked him, 'When are you going to see me next?' He said, 'I'm going to see you in church.'

"And that's where I am now—in

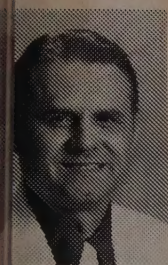
church, praising God. And if there is somebody out there, a mother that's praying for your son, have faith. God is going to answer that prayer."

Ruben Soto, some call him Ringo, a young man who, even while he was caught in Satan's death trap, was in the eyes of a loving Father. Ruben still lives in Los Angeles, but now he is a light among his friends.

"I never ran into that guy who shot me," he says, "but now I pray for him that he can be saved. And that's really something. Now that my friends see the change in me, they come talk to me and I tell them about God and pray for them. The next day, they'll come and tell me how much better they feel. And I'll say, 'God's calling you too.'

"My mother is happy—she doesn't have to worry anymore. I visited a high school recently and gave my testimony. God was blessing and when I made an altar call, people came, crying, and said it was something that they had never experienced.

"On my birthday (I turned 19), our church went on a retreat. I was by a creek, it was a full moon, and I was just kicking back by myself, praying and thanking God for the year. I just felt so good. I really thank God for being alive."



An Advertised Antichrist

THE CHRIST IS NOW HERE, blared a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times and 19 other major world newspapers on April 25, the last day of our International Foursquare Convention. The ad promised that this already present "Christ" will reveal himself on international radio and television and by telepathy within two months.

I established authoritatively that the "Christ" of this ad is definitely not Jesus Christ when I phoned a spokesman for the cult on a Portland, Oregon, radio talk show on May 6. Nancy Brown asserted that Jesus was the Christ only "from the baptism to the crucifixion, for the three years of his ministry. But on the Day of Declaration, the Master Jesus and Lord Maitreya (the name of the 'Christ' of the ad—

RC) will stand side by side and the world will see the difference for the first time." Miss Brown informed me that this present "Christ" has a "body of illusion that he created by an act of will, by a thought form. It took him five or six years."

Can there be any question of how Bible believers should react to this "revelation"? Paul put a curse on it 1900+ years ago (cf. Gal. 1:8,9). The real Jesus and only Christ did not think Himself into a body of illusion but "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14). "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8, KJV), not just between baptism and crucifixion. This cult whelped by Benjamin Creme, Lord Maitreya's forerunner, closely resembles that of the so-called "Mighty I AM Presence of the Ascended Masters" which surfaced a few blocks from Angelus Temple in the mid-1930s.

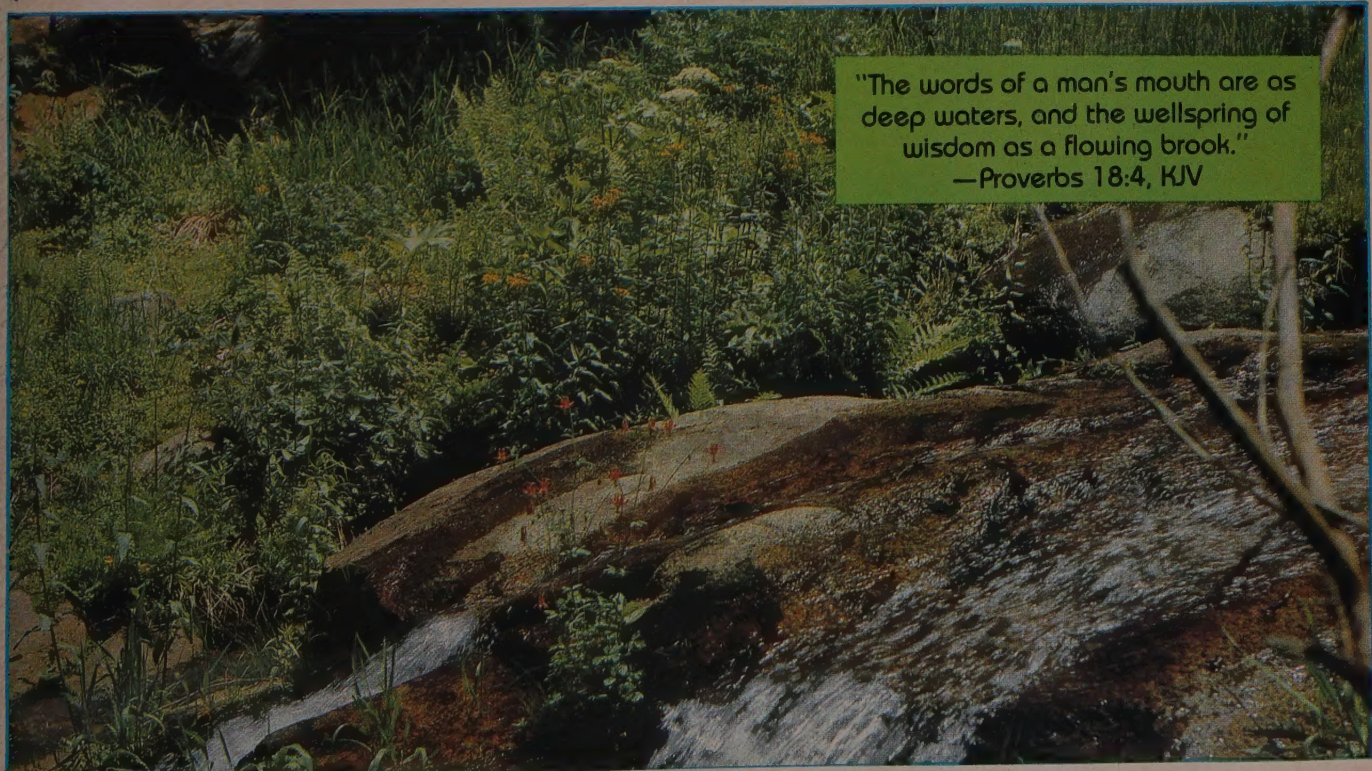
But could this ad's "Christ" possibly be the antichrist?

That's not likely because Jesus Christ is expected to come for His Church before the antichrist is revealed. Dr. Roy Hicks' newest book, "Another Look at the Rapture," established biblically this fact almost incontrovertibly in expounding the correct translation of II Thess. 2. And the Holy Spirit

is still here restraining the revelation of the antichrist.

The only way Lord Maitreya could be the antichrist would be if Jesus came before the "Day of Declaration" which—if that comes on time (within 2 months of April 25)—would mean we'll be raptured before this column gets published. I pray He does. "Even so come, Lord Jesus." Come quickly. But if we're still here, Lord Maitreya is not likely the antichrist. But he is an antichrist (cf. I Jn. 2:18). And definitely he is a *false Christ*. Jesus warned that many would come and deceive multitudes (cf. Matt. 24:4-5, 23-27).

Christians would be well served to study Col. 1 and 2, especially verses 16-19 of the first chapter, and 8-11 and 18-19 of the second. Colossian Gnostics postulated a spiritual hierarchy like that to which Lord Maitreya is said to belong, but Paul blew them out of the water with the inspired revelation that even if such beings did exist, Jesus Christ created them and controls them, for all the fullness of the Godhead bodily dwells in Him and in Him alone. In all things JESUS has the preeminence. At the name of Jesus, not Lord Maitreya, every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord. He is the only Christ of any time and all time.



"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook."
—Proverbs 18:4, KJV

Inside Our Foursquare Family

Dr. McPherson Invited to Washington, D.C., by President Reagan

Dr. Rolf K. McPherson, President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, attended a luncheon and briefing with President Ronald Reagan at the White House on April 13 together with more than 100 national religious leaders.

While recognizing the historic role of religious institutions as the primary source of help for the less fortunate, President Reagan stated: "We must recapture the spirit of brotherhood of family and community that once was the hallmark of this country. We are trying to get people, once again, to help others directly. Accomplishing this is not simply a matter of fund raising; it's not just reaching into our pockets; but reaching into our hearts." He asked, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Dr. McPherson reported to the President over 50 years of commissary ministry by Angelus Temple, Los Angeles, and more than 25 community service programs of local Foursquare churches and member organizations.

Our Church President feels certain that many more Foursquare churches will respond with similar community help programs as they are alerted to the need.

Vice President Named

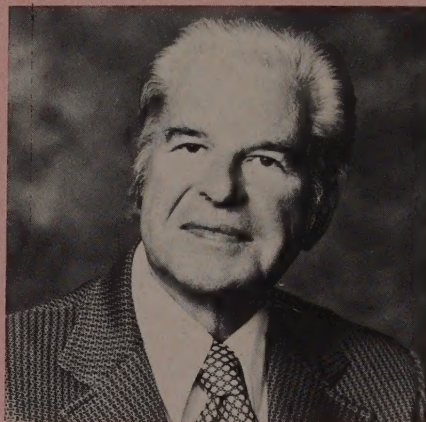
Dr. Harold Helms was recently appointed as Vice President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel by the International Board. Dr. and Mrs. Helms came to the Angelus



Temple, Los Angeles, pastorate in April of 1981 after pastoring the Decatur, Illinois, Foursquare Church for six years. Dr. Helms is assuming the title which will require minimal time alongside his pastoral duties.

Dr. McPherson Receives Humanitarian Award

Dr. Rolf K. McPherson was presented the Achieve the Honorable award by Hollywood High School on June 5 for his humanitarian and philanthropic work



done through the years. Hollywood High School's annual alumni banquet was held at Universal Studios. Dr. McPherson attended the school for one year, thus being asked by Lawrence Young, President of the Alumni Association, to be the guest of honor. We join with the Los Angeles city newspapers in recognizing Dr. McPherson on this special day.

Ed and Ivy Stanton Assume New Roles

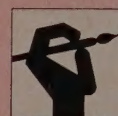
The Reverends Ed and Ivy Stanton, National Directors of Youth Ministries,



have resigned their position after three years of faithful service. They will be remembered for their strong, fruitful pulpit ministry in our churches, youth camps, district and national conclaves, where they faithfully communicated the Lord's intention to pour forth His Spirit upon the young in these last days. They

are also commended for their gift of writing in-depth Bible resource material.

The Stantons are presently residing in Boulder, Colorado, where they will be pioneering a new church. Meanwhile, headquarters will be working with a youth council until direction is found for the position of National Director of Youth Ministries.



Letter to the Editor

Thank you for the article by Sidney Correll on the life of Aimee Semple McPherson in the May (and June), 1982, *Advance* issue.

As I read the section entitled, "She Was a Compassionate, Yet Lonely Woman," I wept and asked, "Lord, why did you take her husband and leave her a lonely, single woman to preach your gospel?" He gently spoke to my heart, "It was for you."

It was then I realized that if she and Robert Semple had stayed in China, I would have grown up a fatherless child, never knowing the wonderful healing and infilling power of the Holy Spirit.

My father was healed of a terminal disease at Angelus Temple in 1924. I was one year old.

Because of our introduction by Sister McPherson to Jesus the Healer, I experienced my father's love and training for 30 years. He spent his added years teaching and preaching the gospel wherever and whenever he had opportunity. I owe all that I am in Christ Jesus to a Sister willing to suffer personal pain to take the gospel alone.

Sincerely, Jean McDonald

Foursquare Heritage Memorabilia Sought

Donate your *Bridal Call* magazines, photos, and news clippings of the early days of Foursquare for future generations. International Church Headquarters and LIFE Bible College personnel are seeking items for heritage files in both locations. Anything you might have stored away can be used. Send to Dr. Charles Duarte, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.



What is so different about this Bible study? The members are from all types of denominations! The Williamsburg Good News Fellowship is an outreach ministry of the Trinity Foursquare Gospel Church in Orlando, Florida. The pastor is Bob Sutherland.

Eternity Club Doesn't Wait for Eternity to Claim Christ's Promises!

On a hot summer night, July 14, 1980, Mike Martens painfully limped into the Kingsway Foursquare Church in Burnaby, Canada, with a pulled ligament in his knee. After the laying on of hands and prayer, he took off his bandage and walked! Two days later, he took a dip in a swimming pool, and on the third day he was skateboarding down the sidewalk!

On September 14, 1981, Verónica Poulin from the Hastings Foursquare Church requested prayer for the healing of a large lump on her wrist. Within 48 hours it was totally healed!

Such are the healings reported at meetings of the "Eternity Club" founded by Evangelist Audrey Mabley. Audrey is a member of the Kingsway Foursquare Church under the pastorate of Barry McGaffin and Dan Howton.

The Eternity Club began as an outreach to neighborhood teenagers. Now the club includes people of all ages. Their weekly format includes

prayer, a sing-a-long campfire style, worshipping in the Spirit, testimonies, and hearing from God's Word.

"The effect on the immediate area is



far reaching," Audrey says. "Folks who were into heavy drugs, excessive booze and crime have had their lives drastically changed by the saving power of Jesus Christ as Lord! Over 100 people have received Christ!

"Many healings have taken place. Rheel Cayer was healed of a blood pressure condition, and another lady was healed of cancer! Rose Arrowsmith was healed of a severe bladder infection, and Irene Keigan was healed of a problem in her spine! We stand in awe as we continue to watch the Lord work!"

Conference on the Holy Spirit

Dr. Rolf K. McPherson, President, and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel have been invited by Thomas F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, to attend the national Conference on the Holy Spirit scheduled to convene in Springfield, Missouri, August 16-18, 1982.

This conference will be an unprecedented meeting involving believers on a transdenominational basis. The program format will include times of worship and prayer, as well as more than 80 workshops and seminars.

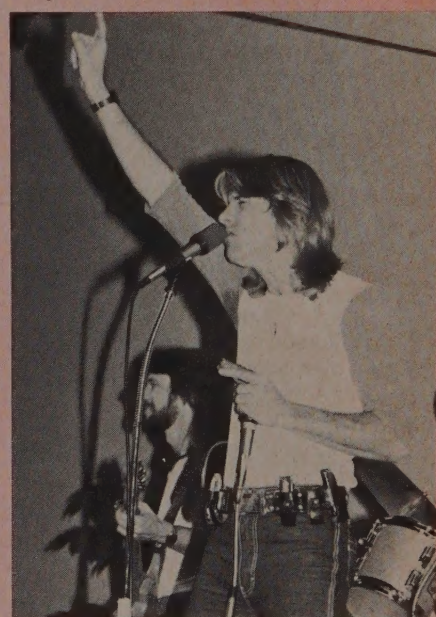
Mr. Zimmerman wrote, "We sense in our movement today, as I am sure you do in yours, a growing spirit of anticipation and eagerness to be

totally involved in the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I believe today as never before we need the empowering, infilling, infusing life of the Holy Spirit both individually and corporately to accomplish the task God has given us in these days just before the coming of our Lord."

Pre-registration and housing forms are available from: Conference on the Holy Spirit, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802.

"And Now—Greet—Darrell Mansfield!"

The applause was thunderous as over 400 people, most 20 years of age or younger, greeted known Christian singer Darrell Mansfield in a concert



at the Plaza Bible Foursquare Church, Orange, California, recently.

According to Rev. Jim Scott, Youth Pastor, the intent was to reach the believers in Orange in order to instill a feeling of unity and numbers among the young Christian community there. "So often we feel alone," he said, "particularly as young people, and we wanted to address this. Jesus did a wonderful work in achieving our goal."



Building a Christian Library

Aimee, Life Story of Aimee Semple McPherson, available through Foursquare Publications, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, \$2.95.

The story of the life of Aimee Semple McPherson gives insight not only into the personhood of a woman who

became a legend in her own lifetime, but it also paints a portrait of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel which she founded.

This is That, available through Foursquare Publications, 1100 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, \$5.95.

For the person who is looking for even more detailed information on the life of Aimee Semple McPherson, this volume offers many personal experiences, sermons and writings composed by Sister McPherson herself.

Reach Out!

To the Unreached



NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

Meet Lylla Yazzie, a long-time member of the Castle Butte, Arizona, Navajo Foursquare Church. She cares about her two little Indian grandchildren and wants them to learn about Christ. The child on the left is half Indian, half white, while her other

grandchild is full blooded Navajo Indian. What a heritage these children have! Through your support, they will discover a greater heritage in Christ. Reach Out!—through evangelism, discipleship, Bible teaching, church planting and literature.

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